

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SUVA 00885 210625Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /080 W

-----011012 210830Z /20

R 210310Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6314

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY CANBECRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SUVA 0885

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, FJ

SUBJECT: DOCK STRIKE AFTERMATH

REF: SUVA 0876

SUMMARY: (A) DOCK STRIKE PROVOKED THE FIRST MAJOR NATIONALISTIC DEMONSTRATION ON JULY 19 SINCE FIJIAN INDEPENDENCE. DOCKERS NOW PLANNING COUNTER-MARCH. (B) SEVENTEEN SEAMEN FROM NEW ZEALAND SHIP NGAHERE ON JULY 18 PLEADED GUILTY, WERE FINED AND RETURNED TO SHIP. (C) SAME DAY, DOCKWORKERS' UNION OFFICIALS PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO CHARGES OF VIOLATING THE TRADES DISPUTE ACT AND HEARINGS AGAINST THEM SCHEDULED BEGIN JULY 25.

1. BETWEEN 2500 AND 3000 MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN, OF ALL ETHNIC GROUPS MARCHED WITH DIGNITY THROUGH THE STREETS OF SUVA  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SUVA 00885 210625Z

CARRYING PLACARDS DENOUNCING FOREIGN UNION INTERFERENCE IN FIJI'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, ESPECIALLY DURING THE 13-DAY DOCK STRIKE WHICH ENDED JULY 18. AN ESTIMATED /,000 PERSONS WERE GATHERED IN FRONT OF SUVA'S CIVIC CENTRE TO HEAR PRIME MINISTER RATU SIR KAMISESE K.T. MARA AS HE MET THE MARCHERS.

2. DEMONSTRATION GREW OUT OF LETTER WRITTEN TO FIJI TIMES BY MRS. LIEBLING MARLOW, DESCRIBED AS "A FORMER BEAUTY QUEEN, WIFE, MOTHER, BUSINESS WOMAN AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST", CALLING ON FIJI WOMEN PROTEST FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. MRS. MARLOW NOW FINDS HERSELF HEADING A SPONTANEOUS WOMEN'S UNITED ACTION MOVEMENT (WUAM), WHOSE NEXT OBJECTIVE IS HEIGHTEN PUBLIC AWARENESS OF RAPE PROBLEM. THE TIMES TERMED HER LETTER AS A "CATALYST", AS INDEED IT TURNED OUT TO BE. MRS. MARLOW WAS JOINED AT THE HEAD OF THE MARCH BY THE FATHER OF THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN FIJI, MR. D.B. LAKSHMAN, (IN A WHEEL CHAIR) AND BY SEVERAL ALLIANCE CABINET MINISTERS.

3. MRS. MARLOW, INTRODUCING THE PRIME MINISTER SAID: "THIS MARCH SHOWS THAT WE ARE UNITED IN OUR STAND TO MAKE THE FUTURE BRIGHTER FOR GENERATIONS TO COME, THAT WE ARE UNITED AS A SOVEREIGN STATE, AND THAT WE DID NOT GET OUR INDEPENDENCE TO BE TOLD WHAT TO DO BY THE OUTSIDE WORLD." SHE INDICATED THAT THE MARCH WAS NOT AGAINST UNIONISM, BUT TO UPHOLD LAW AND ORDER IN FIJI. IN A REFERENCE TO THE RECENT BLACKOUT IN NEW YORK CITY, SHE SAID THAT "FIJI COULD BE REDUCED TO THE "NIGHT OF THE ANIMALS" (AS THE EVENT WAS HEADLINED IN FIJI) UNLESS WE UPHOLD LAW AND ORDER."

4. RATU MARA MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS A GUEST AT THE MEETING, THAT IT WAS NOT A GOVERNMENT MEETING, AND READ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SUVA 00885 210625Z

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM THROUGHOUT THE ISLANDS AND FROM ABROAD, ESPECIALLY FROM PRIVATE PERSONS IN NEW ZEALAND WHO OPPOSED THEIR UNIONS' INTERFERENCE IN FIJIAN AFFAIRS. HE SAID: (A) "THE LAW CANNOT BE FLAUNTED. ANY COUNTRY, HOWEVER SMALL, MUST RESIST INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS BY FOREIGN INTERESTS." (B) "IT WILL BE A SAD DAY IF WE HAVE ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE FROM POLITICAL COLONIALISM, IF WE ARE BEGINNING TO FREE OURSELVES FROM COMMERCIAL COLONIALISMS ONLY TO SUFFER FROM THE COLONIALISM OF FOREIGN TRADE UNIONS."

5. SIDDIQ KOYA, THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION NATIONAL FEDERATION PARTY (NFP, BADLY SPLIT AT THE PRESENT) SOURLY DISMISSED THE MARCH AS AN "ALLIANCE PARTY GIMMICK."

6. MEANWHILE, THE SEVENTEEN SEAMEN FROM NEW ZEALAND SHIP, NGAHERE, ON JULY 18 WERE FINED \$80.00 EACH AND PUT ON GOOD-BEHAVIOR BONDS FOR 12 MONTHS AFTER THEY CHANGED THEIR PLEA TO GUILTY ON A CHARGE OF OBSTRUCTING A POLICE OFFICER IN THE EXECUTION OF HIS DUTY. PRESIDING MAGISTRATE, SENTENCING THE MEN, SAID "TRADE UNIONISTS WERE SUBJECT TO THE SAME LAWS AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE POPULATION". THE MEN RETURNED

TO THEIR SHIP.

7. OFFICIALS OF THE DOCKWORKERS' UNION AND ITS INDUSTRIAL ADVISER, TANIELA VEITATA, ON JULY 18 PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO CHARGES AGAINST THEM UNDER THE TRADES DISPUTE ACT. HEARING OF THE CHARGES WILL BEGIN JULY 25.

8. COMMENT: NFP LEADER KOYA'S LABELLING OF MRS. MARLOWS'S MARCH AS ALLIANCE PLOY CONTAINED KERNEL OF TRUTH SINCE SHOW OF SOLIDARITY QUICKLY AND PROMINENTLY TAKEN UP BY ALLIANCE FIGURES, RATU MARA FIRST AMONG THEM. BY TIME DEMONSTRATION OF LOYALTY TOOK PLACE, VIRTUALLY ENTIRE POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT HAD JUMPED ABOARD BANDWAGON. THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION UNUSUAL NATIONALISTIC DISPLAY, CONVERTED INTO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 SUVA 00885 210625Z

ALLIANCE CAMPAIGN VEHICLE, HAS CAUSED DOCK FTRIKE TO BACKFIRE ON ORGANIZERS WHO WERE OUT TO CAUSE STOPPAGES, COME WHAT MAY, AND DISCREDIT GOF. VEITATA, A MEMBER OF RACIST FIJI NATIONALIST PARTY, HOWEVER, HAS SUCCEEDED IN BECOMING NATIONAL FIGURE, HAS HEIGHTENED SPIRIT OF CONFRONTATION, AND WILL DEPEND THIS UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT IF HIS DOCKERS PERMITTED TO MAKE PLANNED COUNTER-MARCH.  
FLANEGIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, DOCKS, LABOR STRIKES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SUVA00885  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770259-0178  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SUVA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770731/aaaabban.tel  
**Line Count:** 144  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 0eca65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 SUVA 876  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1785252  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DOCK STRIKE AFTERMATH  
**TAGS:** ELAB, FJ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/0eca65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009